



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1161

January Session, 2003

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF THE REGIONAL
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM AND
PRESERVING CERTAIN VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL AND
APPRENTICE TRAINING PROGRAMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2004,
2 the State Board of Education shall report, in accordance with the
3 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
4 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
5 relating to education, on:

6 (1) A revision of the mission statement for the regional vocational-
7 technical school system, which shall include, but not be limited to, an
8 articulation of the following elements: (A) The system's core business
9 and customer focus; (B) the need to improve academic instruction and
10 student achievement; (C) the unique role of the system in providing
11 vocational-technical education with the state; and (D) the system's
12 overall mission of ensuring that each graduate of a regional vocational-
13 technical school (i) meets the entry-level employability requirements of
14 targeted industries and occupations, (ii) meets qualification standards
15 for matriculation in the community-technical college system and other
16 institutions of higher education, and (iii) will be capable of continuing
17 future education and development in response to changing workplace
18 opportunities and demands.

19 (2) A review of the regional vocational-technical school system's
20 organizational structure to (A) determine if the structure supports the
21 revised mission statement developed pursuant to this section, and
22 responds to the system's core business and customer functions; (B)
23 clarify and relate roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability
24 within the system to strategic functions of the system as a whole and
25 the unique functions of individual regional vocational-technical
26 schools and satellite facilities; and (C) reflect in the managerial and
27 administrative evaluation systems the appropriate expectations for
28 annual progress.

29 (3) The establishment of an annual budget and budget requests for
30 the vocational-technical school system as both a separate budget, and a
31 distinct component of the Department of Education budget.

32 (4) The methods for improving the performance measurement and
33 management system for trade programs offered at the regional
34 vocational-technical school system. The report shall identify
35 quantifiable, industry-responsive outcome measures appropriate to
36 each type of trade program, and shall clarify responsibility and
37 accountability for achieving such measures.

38 (5) The implementation of the recommendations of the Governor's
39 Task Force on the Future of the Regional Vocational-Technical School
40 System established under Executive Order No. 24 of Governor John G.
41 Rowland.

42 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2005,
43 the State Board of Education shall require the Commissioner of
44 Education and the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical
45 school system to:

46 (1) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the regional
47 vocational-technical school system's budget through initiatives that
48 include, but are not limited to, (A) the establishment of an education
49 foundation for the purpose of pursuing financial donations from
50 individuals and employers to support the operation of the regional

51 vocational-technical school system and to reallocate funds received
52 from student entrepreneurial programs, (B) in collaboration with the
53 Office of Policy and Management, a review of regional vocational-
54 technical school system purchases to identify opportunities for cost
55 savings through bulk purchasing contracts or other methods, and (C)
56 the identification of grant programs and application to such programs
57 to support new and existing programs for the regional vocational-
58 technical school system.

59 (2) Collaborate with the Commissioner of Higher Education and the
60 chancellor of the community-technical college system, and report on
61 (A) initiatives to build upon the existing partnership of the regional
62 vocational-technical school system and the regional community-
63 technical college system relative to providing an integrated system of
64 secondary and postsecondary education for regional vocational-
65 technical students pursuing careers in workforce shortage areas
66 forecasted by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness pursuant to
67 section 4-124w of the general statutes, (B) initiatives to encourage and
68 facilitate the matriculation of regional vocational-technical school
69 graduates at regional community-technical colleges, (C)
70 recommendations for improving existing articulation agreements
71 between regional vocational-technical schools and regional
72 community-technical colleges, and (D) recommendations for
73 implementing new articulation agreements between regional
74 vocational-technical schools and regional community-technical
75 colleges.

76 (3) Develop a triennial survey of (A) employers that participate in
77 regional vocational-technical school programs as career mentors or
78 hire regional vocational-technical students for internships or
79 permanent employment in order to assess the employers' satisfaction
80 with the students' performance, and (B) students who graduated from
81 regional vocational-technical schools in the five years preceding such
82 survey in order to assess the students' satisfaction with their long-term
83 educational and employment accomplishments.

84 (4) Develop a marketing and recruitment strategy consistent with
85 the mission statement revised pursuant to section 1 of this act. Such
86 strategy shall promote the value of vocational-technical education and
87 may target parent, student and industry audiences.

88 (5) Establish state-wide industry advisory committees for each
89 career cluster offered as part of the regional vocational-technical school
90 system. Such committees shall include industry representatives of the
91 specific career cluster. Each committee for a career cluster shall
92 establish specific skills standards for the cluster. The Commissioner of
93 Education and the superintendent of the regional vocational-technical
94 school system shall develop curricula based on the skill standards set
95 by the state-wide industry advisory committees for each career cluster.

96 Sec. 3. Section 10-95i of the general statutes is repealed and the
97 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

98 (a) Not later than January 1, 1990, and every five years thereafter,
99 the State Board of Education shall adopt a long-range plan of priorities
100 and goals for the regional vocational-technical school system. The plan
101 shall address implementation of the revised mission statement of the
102 regional vocational-technical school system developed pursuant to
103 section 1 of this act and coordination with other providers of
104 vocational, technical or technological education or training and shall
105 include (1) an analysis of the activities described in subsections (b) and
106 (c) of this section and how such activities relate to the long-range plan
107 of priorities and goals and a summary of activities related to capital
108 improvements, and (2) equipment pursuant to subsection (d) of this
109 section. Upon adoption of the plan, the state board shall file the plan
110 with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
111 cognizance of matters relating to education, finance, revenue and
112 bonding and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The
113 state board shall use the plan in preparing its five-year comprehensive
114 plan pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-4.

115 (b) During the five-year period beginning January 1, 1990, and

116 during each five-year period thereafter, the State Board of Education
117 shall evaluate each existing regional vocational-technical school trade
118 program in accordance with a schedule [which] that the state board
119 shall establish. A trade program may be reauthorized for a period of
120 not more than five years following each evaluation on the basis of: The
121 projected employment demand for students enrolled in the trade
122 program, including consideration of the employment of graduates of
123 the program during the preceding five years; anticipated technological
124 changes; the availability of qualified instructors; the existence of
125 similar programs at other educational institutions; and student interest
126 in the trade program. As part of the evaluation, the state board shall
127 consider geographic differences that may make a trade program
128 feasible at one school and not another and whether certain
129 combinations of program offerings shall be required. Prior to any final
130 decision on the reauthorization of a trade program, the state board
131 shall consult with the craft committees for the trade program being
132 evaluated.

133 (c) The state board shall consider the addition of new trade
134 programs. Decisions by the state board to add such programs shall at a
135 minimum be based on the projected employment demand for
136 graduates of the program, the cost of establishing the program, the
137 availability of qualified instructors, the existence of similar programs
138 at other educational institutions and the interest of students in the
139 trade. The state board shall authorize new trade programs for a
140 maximum of five years. The state board shall provide a process for the
141 public, including, but not limited to, employers, parents, students or
142 teachers, to request consideration of the establishment of a new trade
143 program.

144 (d) The State Board of Education shall maintain a rolling five-year
145 capital improvement and capital equipment plan that identifies: (1)
146 Alterations, renovations and repairs that each vocational-technical
147 school is expected to need, including, but not limited to, grounds and
148 athletic fields, heating and ventilation systems, wiring, roofs, and
149 windows, and the cost of such projects, (2) recommendations for

150 energy efficiency improvements to each school and the cost of such
151 improvements, [and] (3) the specific equipment each regional
152 vocational-technical school is expected to need, based on the useful life
153 of existing equipment and projections of changing technology and the
154 estimated cost of the equipment, and (4) recommendations for
155 implementing key elements relating to capital needs of the revised
156 mission statement of the regional vocational-technical school system
157 developed pursuant to section 1 of this act. The State Board of
158 Education shall submit such plan, annually, to the joint standing
159 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
160 relating to education, finance, revenue and bonding and
161 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies.

162 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) All reports or plans required
163 under sections 1 and 2 of this act and section 10-95i of the general
164 statutes, as amended by this act, shall be provided to the Governor's
165 Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology established by
166 Executive Order No. 13 of Governor John G. Rowland, the Office of
167 Workforce Competitiveness and the Connecticut Employment and
168 Training Commission. Each of these groups may, from time to time,
169 make recommendations to the State Board of Education addressing (1)
170 how the regional vocational-technical schools may best meet the skill
171 needs of employers; (2) how the role of school craft committees can be
172 strengthened and employer participation increased; (3) how
173 alternative technical training models for eleventh and twelfth grade
174 students, such as tech-prepare, shared time, trade academies and
175 preapprenticeship can be expanded, particularly in manufacturing;
176 and (4) new trade programs for such schools.

177 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than February 4, 2004, the
178 Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall submit a report, in
179 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
180 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
181 cognizance of matters relating to higher education and workforce
182 development concerning the state's current and future need for
183 welders and recommendations for generating a sufficient number of

184 welders to meet identified workforce needs. Such report shall contain
185 an analysis of the costs and benefits to the state of (1) maintaining
186 existing educational and training programs in welding offered by the
187 regional vocational-technical school system, (2) expanding such
188 programs into four-year vocational-technical programs, and (3)
189 increasing the number of youth preapprentice and apprentice
190 programs in welding through the regional vocational-technical school
191 system.

192 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) Section 10-95h of the general statutes is
193 repealed.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

APP *Joint Favorable*